



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

4

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/772,952	02/04/2004	Yoshiro Udagawa	1232-5277	5312

27123 7590 04/05/2007
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.
3 WORLD FINANCIAL CENTER
NEW YORK, NY 10281-2101

EXAMINER

QUIETT, CARRAMAH J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2622

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	04/05/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/772,952

Applicant(s)

UDAGAWA, YOSHIRO

Examiner

Carramah J. Quiett

Art Unit

2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Specification

2. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. **Claims 1-8** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kidono et al. (U.S. Pat. #6,970,193).

For **claim 1**, Kidono discloses an image sensing apparatus (fig. 1) having an image sensing device (5) (col. 3, lines 59 – col. 4, line 31), comprising:

driving means (6) for driving the image sensing device by a plurality of driving schemes (col. 4, lines 7-31);

pixel defect information storage means (18) for storing pixel defect information as information about a pixel defect in the image sensing device in correspondence with each driving scheme (col. 5, lines 25-37); and

correction means (8) for correcting the pixel defect by referring to the pixel defect information in said pixel defect information storage means in accordance with the driving scheme with which said driving means drives the image sensing device (col. 4, lines 18-31).

For **claim 2**, Kidono discloses the image sensing apparatus wherein the pixel defect information is formed from basic pixel defect information generated by driving the image sensing device by a basic driving scheme and detecting the pixel defect and the other pixel defect information corresponding to the other driving scheme, which is generated on the basis of a relationship between said other driving scheme and the basic driving scheme and the basic pixel defect information (col. 4, line 60 – col. 5, line 63).

For **claim 3**, Kidono discloses the image sensing apparatus wherein the basic driving scheme is a driving scheme that reads all pixels of the image sensing device (the effective region and the OB region; col. 4, line 60 – col. 5, line 63).

For **claim 4**, Kidono discloses the image sensing apparatus wherein a data amount of said other pixel defect information is smaller than that of the basic pixel defect information (OB region; col. 4, line 60 – col. 5, line 63).

For **claim 5**, Kidono discloses the image sensing apparatus wherein said pixel defect information storage means is a nonvolatile recording medium (EEPROM; col. 5, lines 25-37).

For **claim 6**, Kidono teaches an image sensing method using an image sensing apparatus having an image sensing device (col. 3, lines 59 – col. 4, line 31) and driving means for driving the image sensing device by a plurality of driving schemes (col. 4, lines 7-31), comprising:

correcting a pixel defect by referring to pixel defect information in pixel defect information storage means in accordance with the driving scheme with which the driving means

Art Unit: 2622

drives the image sensing device (col. 4, lines 18-31), the pixel defect information storage means storing the pixel defect information as information about the pixel defect in the image sensing device in correspondence with each driving scheme (col. 5, lines 25-37).

For **claim 7**, Kidono discloses a computer-readable recording medium which records a program for an image sensing apparatus (inherent because the system controller controls the camera; col. 3, lines 59 – col. 4, line 31) having an image sensing device (5) and driving means (6) for driving the image sensing device by a plurality of driving schemes (col. 4, lines 7-31), characterized by causing a computer (12) in the image sensing apparatus to execute processing for correcting a pixel defect by referring to pixel defect information in pixel defect information storage means in accordance with the driving scheme with which the driving means drives the image sensing device (col. 4, lines 7-31), the pixel defect information storage means (18) storing the pixel defect information as information about the pixel defect in the image sensing device in correspondence with each driving scheme (col. 5, lines 25-37).

For **claim 8**, Kidono discloses a program for an image sensing apparatus (inherent because the system controller controls the camera; col. 3, lines 59 – col. 4, line 31) having an image sensing device (5) and driving means (6) for driving the image sensing device by a plurality of driving schemes (col. 4, lines 7-31), characterized by causing a computer (12) in the image sensing apparatus to execute processing for correcting a pixel defect by referring to pixel defect information in pixel defect information storage means in accordance with the driving scheme with which the driving means drives the image sensing device (col. 4, lines 7-31), the pixel defect information storage means (18) storing the pixel defect information as information

Art Unit: 2622

about the pixel defect in the image sensing device in correspondence with each driving scheme (col. 5, lines 25-37).

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Kawasae et al. (U.S. Pat. #6,906,748)

An interpolation calculation circuit for improving the image quality for recording and display.

Kaifu et al. (U.S. Pat. #6,947,084)

An image sensing apparatus including an X-ray image sensing unit having a normal read function and a non-destructive read function.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carramah J. Quiett whose telephone number is (571) 272-7316. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:00 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, NgocYen Vu can be reached on (571) 272-7320. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2622

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

CJQ

March 27, 2007

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ngoc Yen Vu', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

NGOC YEN VU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER